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SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, JULY 10, 1896.

PHYSIOLOGY IN THE SCHOOLS.*

CONTENTS:

| | |
|---|----|
| <i>Physiology in the Schools:</i> S. H. GAGE..... | 29 |
| <i>Discussion of Professor Gage's Paper on Physiology in the Schools:</i> BURT G. WILDER | 33 |
| <i>Geological Atlas of the United States</i> | 34 |
| <i>Work of the United States Geological Survey for Fiscal Year 1896-97:</i> W. F. MORSELL..... | 40 |
| <i>The New York State Veterinary College</i> | 41 |
| <i>Current Notes on Physiography:—</i> | |
| <i>Rivers of Central Iowa: Geomorphology of Norway; Littledale in Thibet; Danger from Thunderstorms in Arabia:</i> W. M. DAVIS..... | 42 |
| <i>Current Notes on Meteorology:—</i> | |
| <i>International Congress of Hydrology and Climatology: Atlas of the Pacific Ocean:</i> R. DEC. WARD | 44 |
| <i>Current Notes on Anthropology:—</i> | |
| <i>American Craniology; Man and the Megalonyx:</i> D. G. BRINTON..... | 45 |
| <i>Scientific Notes and News:—</i> | |
| <i>Lord Kelvin; The Teaching of Anatomy; General</i> | 46 |
| <i>University and Educational News</i> | 49 |
| <i>Discussion and Correspondence:—</i> | |
| <i>The Form of the Head as Influenced by Growth: FRANZ BOAS. Biology, Zoology and Botany: Y. An Uncommon After-Image: HIRAM M. STANLEY. The Ninebanded Armadillo: A. B. BAKER. Rochefort on the Caribbeans: O. T. MASON</i> | 50 |
| <i>Scientific Literature:—</i> | |
| <i>Standfuss on Paläarktischen Gross-Schmetterlinge: A. S. PACKARD. Westermaier's Compendium of General Botany: GEO. F. ATKINSON</i> | 52 |
| <i>Scientific Journals:—</i> | |
| <i>American Journal of Science: Psyche</i> | 55 |

THAT some knowledge of physiology and hygiene should form a part of the education of every human being will, I think, be granted by every one who believes that wisdom is safer than ignorance, that ignorance is not innocence, and that health and manly and womanly vigor are better than nerveless helplessness, and lastly that a knowledge of what the Creator pronounced 'very good' is worthy the contemplation and thought of man. It is not necessary, however, to enter into an extended defense or advocacy of physiology and hygiene in the schools; they are there already by the sanction of the people and their representatives in the State Legislature, and hence the real question upon which thought and discussion should be directed is: How can this study be made to yield the best results of which it is capable? The question is apparently easily answered by saying: Put good text-books in the pupils' hands, and supply capable teachers and ample time and facilities. While such an answer may seem sufficient, it is in the present state of educational progress only hollow sound. What is really needed is a discussion of what makes a good text-book, how earnest men and women may become capable teachers, and how facilities, often inadequate, and time mostly too limited, may be best utilized.

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to the responsible editor, Prof. J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

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